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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 29 August 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Windrush Day 2021

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-01/debates/CD43CF90-CF01-4814-AF6E-DD8A29B1BA51/WindrushDay2021>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Kevin Foster): I am

delighted to have this opportunity to mark and update the House on the huge success of the EU settlement scheme. As of the end of last month, more than 5.6 million applications had been received by the scheme, with more than 5.2 million concluded. As these numbers demonstrate, the dire warnings about our willingness to deliver an effective scheme to safeguard the position of millions of our friends and neighbours have proven totally unfounded. ...

The Government have mounted a massive public information campaign to raise awareness about the scheme, investing almost £8 million in communications encouraging eligible EU citizens and their family members to apply by the deadline. We have also made extensive support available to applicants who need it, including providing £22 million in grant funding to organisations that have so far helped more than 300,000 vulnerable people to apply for the status that they deserve.

... we will take a pragmatic and flexible approach to considering late applications made after the deadline. Our priority will remain to encourage those eligible to secure their status, and the examples of reasonable grounds given in the guidance that we have published are non-exhaustive. Each case will be considered based on its unique circumstances.

To confirm: a person's existing rights will continue to be legally protected pending the outcome of an application made by the deadline of tomorrow, plus any appeal process that may follow. In the meantime, they will be able to rely on their certificate of application as proof of their right to work or rent when that is verified by the Home Office employer and landlord checking services.

We also expect the EU to uphold its obligations on citizens' rights. We are aware that some UK nationals in the EU have faced difficulties in securing and exercising their rights. We are engaging with the EU through the specialised committee on citizens' rights to address this.

The people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in June 2016. We opened the EU settlement scheme in March 2019 on a basis much more generous than the withdrawal agreement requires. By contrast, most EU countries have an application window of around 12 months. Our position has remained clear throughout: EU citizens are our colleagues, neighbours, friends and family. We want them to stay and to get the status that they deserve under the EU settlement scheme. The fact that so many have already chosen to do so is something to celebrate, and I encourage anyone who is eligible, but yet to apply, to join the millions who have already secured their rights through our scheme, with support available online, on the phone and through our fantastic grant-funded organisations.

Paul Blomfield (Labour): ... Reports suggest that the Government have estimated that up to 130,000 of those eligible for benefits have not applied for settled status. What assessment has the Home Office made of the total number of eligible EU citizens still to apply, and how has it reached out actively to those people? What support has been given to older and more vulnerable people who have yet to make applications, particularly those in social care? There is concern that some parents have thought it unnecessary to apply on behalf of their children. How is the Home Office identifying those children and enabling their applications?

Government figures show that applications have been made for only one in three children in care, so what has been done for the others? The Home Office has said that late applications on reasonable grounds will be considered, so will the Minister confirm what status those applicants will have while the reasonableness of their case is determined?

Victims of domestic abuse whose traumatic circumstances have prevented an application will lose rights to support and a place in a refuge. What has been done to protect them? One in three landlords are not aware of the settlement scheme. Business groups think employers do not know enough about it. What has been done to ensure that nobody is wrongly excluded from housing or work?

Almost half — around 2 million — of those who have applied for settled status have not

received it. Instead, they have pre-settled status with no long-term rights. What are the Government doing to ensure that they can overcome the barriers to full status? There is a real risk of a new Windrush-type tragedy in the future if we do not get this right now. The pandemic has affected Government capacity and communication, so will the Minister reconsider his previous statement, follow the lead of countries such as France and the Netherlands in relation to UK citizens and extend the deadline for applications?

Reply from Kevin Foster: The promise of absolute clarity is exactly what the EUSS is there to deliver: the absolute clarity that a person will be able to prove, demonstrate and have recorded their rights in this country not just for the next couple of years but for decades to come. That is why we are delighted that we have had so many applications and have already managed to give that certainty to millions of our fellow residents here in the UK.

On the work that has been done with the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, we are keen to reach out to all who could be eligible to apply, hence the letters sent to those for whom there was no record of an EUSS application. Further work will be done after the deadline to encourage those identified in that way to make an application. As has been said before, anyone who is already a British citizen or has indefinite leave to remain under systems that predated free movement does not need to apply—although those with ILR under previous systems may choose to upgrade, for free, to status under the EUSS. ...

On children in care, I am not sure whether I heard the hon. Gentleman say that he thought Government figures showed that only a third of them had applied. In fact, the most recent survey of local authorities, which went to the end of April, showed that 67% of such applications had been made where settlement had already been granted. We continue to work with local authorities and are grateful for the support shown not just for children in care but for adults in care who may need support.

On the position in other countries, I gently make the point that by the day that France opened its system for UK nationals living in France, the EUSS had already received 4 million applications and literally millions of statuses had been granted. We need to have that in mind when we make comparisons.

We have already seen 147,000 people convert from pre-settled to settled status, even though they did not need to do that immediately—they qualified by hitting the five-year period. Again, there will be support and reminders, and there will be reasonable grounds for a late application to go from pre-settled to settled status in a similar vein as for those who miss the deadline tomorrow.

Significant support is available, and if there are compelling or compassionate circumstances after the deadline, we will work with agencies, particularly those that deal with the most vulnerable, to look at expediting applications through the process where needed. My core message today is very simple: if you are eligible, apply now and secure the status that you deserve.

Tim Loughton (Conservative): The Government are to be congratulated on the remarkable success of the scheme—there have been 5.6 million applicants, against an estimate of just 3 million qualifying people in this country—but I share the Minister's concern about the lack of energy and urgency in respect of reciprocal arrangements for British citizens in EU countries. Does he have an estimate of how many British citizens have so far applied and how many cases are outstanding?

On the specific issue of children in care, I am glad to hear that the number of applications has now been raised to two thirds, but is his estimate still that some 10,000 children in care would qualify? That would mean that something like 3,500 very vulnerable children have still not been registered and, if they are not, could be the subject of a future Windrush-type scandal.

Reply from Kevin Foster: ... We are working hard with local authorities. The figure I gave was from the end of April. We are now coming to the end of June, and we

know that a significant number of applications have been lodged in support of children in care. I have often given this example, but if, for the sake of argument, a child in care aged five today discovers in 13 years' time, when they become an adult, that their application had not been made on their behalf—when, for example, they get their first job—we will consider that reasonable grounds for a late application. ...

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): ... There could not be a more powerful warning to the Government of what happens when innocent people are deprived of their right to be here than the Windrush scandal. Twenty-eight-day warnings advising people to apply for settled status have been issued, despite an estimated 400,000 applications still awaiting processing. As my hon. Friend said, leaked documents suggest that 130,000 people in receipt of benefits have yet to sign up, and that support could be taken away. The Children's Society has estimated that applications have not been made for more than 2,000 children in care or care leavers. That is why the Opposition have called for an extension of the European Union settlement scheme to the end of September. The Government must then do everything possible to sign up eligible people, with a strategy focusing on the vulnerable, children in care and care leavers.

Will the Minister confirm what is being done to support those who are unable to use or access the internet? More widely, how many eligible individuals does the Home Office believe have yet to sign up, and precisely how many applications are still being processed? Put simply, the Government have not done enough to prevent people from falling through the cracks. To avoid the risk of terrible injustice, surely the Government must extend the deadline to the end of September and use the additional time to ensure that all who are eligible are signed up.

Reply from Kevin Foster: What I would say is that the EUSS itself is the lesson learned from Windrush. Granting people status via an Act of Parliament, with no record taken and no document to prove it, might work for a few years while people can still easily prove where they were living on a particular date, but many years down the line it produces the outcomes we saw. That is exactly why we have been keen to make the EUSS relatively simple and open, with criteria that are basically based on residence, not on exercising specific free movement rights, which would have been far more restrictive and complicated for applicants to prove.

Intensive work is being done to support the most vulnerable, with 72 grant-funded organisations being funded up to the end of September to continue supporting applications and those with status beyond the deadline tomorrow. Again, we have been working closely with local authorities to reach out to those in care—not just children in care, but adults as well.

Literally millions of applications have been received, although it is hard to give a precise figure for how many applications are currently outstanding, given that literally thousands are still coming in every day—and we very much welcome that. To reassure the House, we have dealt with much larger surges of applications. For example, around Christmas, we were receiving literally tens of thousands of applications. Also to reassure the House, the vast majority of those have already been resolved, with all but a small percentage having been granted status under the EUSS.

We believe that we have made great progress, but, as we have touched on before, we have published non-exhaustive guidance on what we will see as reasonable grounds for a late application, including for many vulnerable groups. We have also published guidance for employers—and landlords—on what their approach should be to an EEA national they had employed before the deadline and how the first resort should be to look at supporting them in making an application.

The hon. Gentleman said that 28-day warnings have been issued. To be clear, those have not been issued. We have not got to the deadline; what he was referring

to is the approach we will take when we encounter people who may be eligible for EUSS status after the deadline. ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-29/debates/D6A7B22E-92AF-4BDA-B585-A8E0A0782E9E/EUSettlementScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Hilary Benn (Labour) [22141] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to introduce a fee waiver scheme for children born in the UK who are applying to register their British citizenship in response to the Court of Appeal judgment of 18 February 2021 in R on the application of Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens & O v Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has acknowledged the Court of Appeal's judgment and has committed to reviewing the child citizenship registration fee in line with its duties under Section 55.

A Supreme Court hearing on Child Registration fees also took place on 23rd and 24th June. We await the final judgment and the ongoing section 55 review before publishing results.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-25/22141>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2021/193.html>

Migrant Workers: Data Protection

Clive Lewis (Labour) [22186] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what processes are in place to protect the data protection rights of migrants in the event that their personal tax data is used to determine (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful applications for indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Jesse Norman: HMRC have a duty of confidentiality for information they hold on all taxpayers. HMRC only share or disclose information that is necessary and proportionate for the intended purpose, through strict adherence to data protection principles such as UK GDPR, and only with comprehensive governance in place to monitor those exchanges and the purposes to which data can be used or retained.

In the event that the Home Office and HMRC undertake an exchange in relation to applications for indefinite leave to remain, the processes in place to uphold the data protection rights of migrants are the same as for all applicants. It is the responsibility of the Home Office to determine whether applications are successful or unsuccessful.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-25/22186>

Migrants: Documents

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [20444] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that migrants with a right to live in the UK have the documentation to prove that right.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Everyone who is granted permission to live in the UK is given evidence of their immigration status in a secure format – either as a physical document (biometric residence permit or card) or in digital form (eVisa).

Some individuals receive both a card and an eVisa; others will only receive an eVisa. In addition to their evidence of immigration status they also receive a written notification of their grant of leave in the form of an email or letter, which they can

keep for their personal records.

Due to the possibility of fraud and abuse this document cannot be used to evidence an individual's immigration status to external organisations.

The move to digital is part of the wider move to a border and immigration system which is digital by default, which means we will increasingly replace physical and paper-based products and services with accessible, easy to use online and digital services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20444>

Immigration: Armed Forces

Jim Shannon (DUP) [18517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to grant permanent residency to UK troops who are from overseas who have served in the UK armed forces for over 12 years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government hugely values every member of our outstanding Armed Forces and we are humbled when non-UK nationals choose to serve our country.

It is for these reasons we explicitly provide for all non-UK service personnel discharged from HM Forces to obtain settlement in the UK having served for four years or more or having been discharged for medical reasons due to their service via the online form SET(AF):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-settle-in-uk-as-former-member-of-hm-forces-setaf>

In addition to these provisions Commonwealth personnel who have served for five years or more in HM Forces can apply to become a British Citizen. Naturalising as a British Citizen whilst serving removes any need to apply for further immigration permission to settle in the UK on a permanent basis when they discharge.

The Home Office and Ministry of Defence have launched a public consultation which proposes waiving the settlement application fee for non-UK service personnel who have served at least 12 years in HM Forces.

We would welcome any views on these proposals before the consultation closes on 7 July:

[Immigration Fees Public Consultation](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18517>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Apsana Begum (Labour) [22035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce a mobile application to simplify the process for EU citizens proving their status when travelling into the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Individuals who have been granted digital status are not required to provide evidence of this to cross the border. Provided the individual travels using a document they either used to apply or have added to their UKVI account, their status will be automatically recognised at the border.

Where an individual travels using a document not known to the Home Office, they may be asked further questions or further manual systems checks may be conducted at the primary control point in order to verify their status.

Beyond this, and as part of our efforts towards becoming a world-leading immigration system beyond 2022 we will aim to deliver a fully end-to-end digital experience for those arriving at the UK border. We will also ensure support is available for those unable to use online services or who may otherwise be digitally excluded

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22035>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [23205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the stability of the Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status) website; and how many times that website has crashed in the last month.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Stability assessment: The Apply for the EU Settlement Scheme is monitored continuously to test the health of the service. For each new release, changes to the service are tested in addition to regression tests against a functional and non-functional baseline. Performance testing is assessed against a benchmark which has been agreed within the department. The benchmark is informed by historic models of service usage to ensure our tests are relevant and true to how the service is used.

In addition, the service also uses a queueing service, Queue-It, to manage the demand of the service. When the service is at maximum capacity users are redirected to a virtual waiting room, the service passes users back to the website in a first come, first served order.

Outages: The EU Settlement Scheme has experienced one outage in the last month, on 30 June 2021. Some users had difficulty accessing the application form from 17:50, with the service being unavailable from 18:19 to 18:33, however it then remained available until 9am on 1st July 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/23205>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [22050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applications to the EU Settlement Scheme are deferred where the resolution of pending criminal proceedings against the applicant would not meet the grounds for refusal relating to suitability considerations.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Decisions on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications where the applicant is subject to pending criminal proceedings are deferred where those proceedings could lead to a conviction and subsequent refusal on suitability grounds; and where the application does not otherwise meet the criteria for referral to Immigration Enforcement in respect of any other conviction.

We have recently revised the EUSS suitability guidance to allow an EUSS application which has been paused for at least six months, to be progressed where all of the following conditions are met:

- there is only one pending prosecution;
- the maximum potential sentence upon conviction is less than 12 months, according to the maximum category 1 sentence in line with the Sentencing Council guidelines for the alleged offence; and
- there are no previous convictions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22050>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [22051] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to confirm that applications to the EU Settlement Scheme made by 31 December 2020, in respect of which consideration of a criminal record or criminal proceedings is relevant, will have their conduct assessed at the higher threshold of suitability applicable at that time

based on EU law grounds of public policy, public security or public health for relevant conduct that occurred prior to 11pm on 31 December 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Where an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applicant's criminality is a relevant consideration, their conduct will be assessed against the threshold relevant to the period in which the conduct was committed.

Conduct committed before the end of the transition period (11pm on 31 December 2020) will be assessed against the EU law public policy, public security or public health test. Conduct committed after the end of the transition period will be assessed against the UK's criminality threshold.

This is irrespective of the date on which the application was submitted to the EUSS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22051>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Virginia Crosbie (Conservative) [20572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to (a) raise awareness of the application process and deadline for the EU Settled Status Scheme for (i) children, (ii) looked after children, (iii) people over 65 and (iv) vulnerable people and (b) ensure that people who apply before 30 June 2021 but who have not received a decision by that date will not lose their rights immediately.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), including those who are vulnerable, need extra support or are harder to reach.

£22 million of funding, through to 30 September 2021, has been awarded to a network of 72 charities and local authorities across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 310,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already.

Local authorities have relevant statutory duties where looked after children are concerned and we have been working closely with them since 2018 to help ensure these duties are fulfilled in relation to making or supporting applications to the EUSS, with additional funding provided following a new burdens assessment. A child-friendly EUSS leaflet has been shared with our extensive network of stakeholders who support children, including local authorities, children's charities and the education sector.

Communications to support the EUSS have been live since 2019, with almost £8 million spent on marketing ahead of the 30 June 2021 deadline to reach EEA and Swiss citizens in all UK regions and nations. This activity, which also includes toolkits, assets and information translated into 26 EEA languages, including Welsh, has helped to drive over 5.6 million applications to the scheme to 31 May 2021.

Under the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, those who apply before the 30 June 2021 deadline, but whose application is not decided until after it, will have their existing EU law rights protected pending the outcome of their application, including any appeal. Also in line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, those with reasonable grounds for missing the deadline will be able to make a late application, with non-exhaustive guidance published on 1 April 2021 to underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to dealing with late applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20572>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Feryal Clark (Labour) [20555] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of EU citizens who may miss the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme of 30 June 2021; and what steps she plans to take in response to people missing that deadline.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the '[EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)', with more than 5.6 million applications received to 31 May 2021.

Our focus remains on encouraging those EU citizens and their family members eligible for the scheme who have yet to apply to do so before the 30 June 2021 deadline for those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EUSS and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU citizens in the UK. The published figures include non-EEA citizen family members, Irish citizens and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in estimates of the resident EU citizen population.

Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the Government has already made clear where a person eligible for status under the EUSS has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June deadline 2021, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. Guidance as to the approach we will adopt to this was published on 1 April 2021. It can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20555>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Ruth Jones (Labour) [19677] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of extending the deadline for EU citizens living in (a) Wales, (b) Scotland, (c) England and (d) Northern Ireland to register for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Having already received over 5.6m applications by the end of May 2021 there are no plans to extend the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) by those EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

The Home Office has invested nearly £8 million in marketing campaigns to encourage EU citizens and their family members to apply to the EUSS. We recently launched a new wave of UK advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply. We are also working closely with employers, local authorities and charities to raise awareness. We have continued to receive and process thousands of applications a day to the EUSS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 5.2 million applications concluded by 31 May 2021.

We are committed to making sure everybody eligible for the scheme can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. There is significant help available from a network of 72 organisations across the UK grant funded by the Home Office with £22 million to help vulnerable people apply to the EUSS, including after the 30 June 2021 deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19677>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Apsana Begum (Labour) [22036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department considers reasonable grounds for EU citizens to be accepted for settled or pre settled status in the UK if they miss the 30 June 2021 application deadline.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has already published non-exhaustive guidance (on 1 April 2021) on what may constitute such reasonable grounds, which will underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme in light of the circumstances of each case.

The guidance can be found at pages 26 to 44 here:

[EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22036>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [22046] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an unemployed EU citizen who misses the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) 30 June 2021 deadline and subsequently makes a late application will have the right to take up new employment, while they wait for a decision on their EUSS application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: From 1 July, right to work checks will change, and EEA citizens will be required to demonstrate eligibility through evidence of their immigration status, rather than their nationality.

EEA citizens who make a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme and do not have any other form of immigration leave will not be permitted to take up new employment until they have been granted status under the Scheme.

However, a person granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme on the basis of a late application will have the same rights from the date they are granted status, as a person who applied by the deadline. This includes the right to work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22046>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [22045] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether an EU citizen fleeing domestic abuse who misses the EU Settlement Scheme 30 June 2021 deadline and subsequently makes a late application will be eligible for (a) local authority homelessness assistance and (b) a place in a women's refuge, while she waits for a decision on her EUSS application.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Guidance on eligibility for homelessness assistance in England can be found in chapter 7 of the statutory Homelessness Code of Guidance. This is available at

www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities

Individual refuges will make their own decision on whether to accept an EEA citizen who has missed the deadline for the EUSS

The Government has been clear we will take a flexible and pragmatic approach where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for making an application to the EUSS. The Home Office is putting in place measures to expedite the processing of late applications from vulnerable people, (including

victims of domestic abuse) using existing processes with charities, their network of grant funded organisations, local authorities and others to identify and expedite such cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22045>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Visas: EEA Nationals

Drew Hendry (SNP) [22174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of allowing the use of remaining days on EEA Family Permits after the permit category ends on the 30 June 2021 where (a) there have been delays on the processing of the permit prior to that point and (b) the families have faced delays reuniting due to covid-19 restrictions.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 provided for the temporary continuation of the EEA family permit to 30 June 2021, to allow the family members of EEA citizens with saved EU law rights to accompany them to, or join them in, the UK. After that date, family members will no longer be able to apply for, or use, an EEA family permit to travel to and enter the UK.

Family members wishing to join an EEA citizen who was resident in the UK by the end of the transition period can instead apply for an EU Settlement Scheme family permit, for which there is also no application fee.

Where, from 1 July 2021, an individual arrives at the border with an unexpired EEA family permit and has not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, they will generally be granted immigration bail, to enable them to make an application here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-25/22174>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patricia Gibson (SNP) [21934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has provided the Department for Work and Pensions on the continued payment of universal credit to people who are (a) awaiting a decision about their EU Settled Status applications or (b) appealing a rejection of their EU Settled Status application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 protect existing relevant EU law rights. EEA citizens and their family members who were lawfully resident in the UK at the end of the transition period and apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) by the 30 June deadline, have their rights protected until the final determination of an application, including through any appeal.

There is a system-to-system service between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Home Office, which will in most cases confirm a pending application to the EUSS automatically.

We continue to work closely with DWP to ensure anyone whose rights are protected by making an in-time application to the EUSS will continue to receive benefits. DWP have provided staff with guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/21934>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Au Pairs: EU Nationals

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [10664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to bring forward proposals to enable au pairs from the EU to live and work in the UK via the youth mobility visa scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As has been the case since 2008, successive governments have decided the UK's immigration system will not offer a dedicated visa route for au pairs. Au pairs are typically young, far from home and reliant upon their host family for accommodation and living costs, consequently a visa which is linked to one type of employment or employer and restricts their ability to seek work more generally may render them vulnerable to exploitation.

While we have not commenced formal discussions with any EU Member State, we remain open to negotiating Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) arrangements with other countries but they must be reciprocal as the YMS is not simply a one way route to recruiting cheap labour overseas.

Those who have employed an au pair can either look to offer a package which makes it attractive to those arriving in the UK with general rights to work or use the wide range of childcare options in the UK relied upon by most families.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10664>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [19671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to (a) hold further negotiations with the relevant local authorities and (b) assess alternative temporary accommodation for Afghan interpreters and their families accessing the Ex Gratia Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is continuing to engage actively with local authorities across England, Wales and Scotland to seek their support for relocating Afghan locally employed staff (LES) and their families.

Local authorities currently provide both accommodation and integration support to families. Whilst this remains the preferred approach, the Home Office is looking at further options to ensure families continue to be appropriately supported.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19671>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [19672] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether it is the Government's policy to work to a target date of September 2021, in alignment with the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, to extract the wives and children of the Afghan interpreters who are currently in the UK.

Reply from Leo Docherty: We are significantly accelerating the pace of relocations in parallel with the military withdrawal, this includes eligible spouses and families who were left in Afghanistan when the staff member relocated to the UK. Our commitment to those who are eligible under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and the process to deliver it, is not time-limited and will endure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19672>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [19673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications from Afghan interpreters that were made from third countries have been refused by her Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: It is not possible for Afghan interpreters to make applications under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy from anywhere other than Afghanistan.

Therefore, no such applications have been received or refused.

Immigration: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [19674] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what support the Government is providing to Afghan interpreters who have fled that country and are now processed in third-country asylum systems, in circumstances where they cannot apply for relocation to the UK from a third country.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Our priority is to relocate those applicants currently in Afghanistan where they are likely to face the greatest risk. Applications are made online or by phone initially. We will always consider exceptionally compelling and compassionate circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19674>

Undocumented Migrants: Boats

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [20327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department is doing with rubber dinghies and boats seized from illegal immigrants arriving on British beaches.

Reply from Chris Philp: Rubber dinghies and boats seized under the immigration act are stored under the control of the Queen's warehouse. All goods that are seized that are not required for forensic and/or criminal proceedings are required to be held for a period of 12 months before consideration of disposal.

Where no claim request has been received by the Queen's warehouse the goods will be disposed of after the required time.

Due to the duration that the goods seized are held, they have not been worthy of consideration of sale or donation due the question of their seaworthiness and significant deterioration whilst in storage.

A Statutory instrument has been developed to amend current legislation to enable the disposal of said goods in a reduced time where no forensic or criminal proceedings are outstanding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20327>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [902034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the Government's proposals on asylum with the (a) UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and (b) rule of law.

Reply from Chris Philp: The New Plan for Immigration will deliver a fair but firm asylum system. We have a proud history of providing to protection to those who need it, and all policy measures will uphold our legal obligations, including the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/902034>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre: Industrial Health and Safety

Catherine West (Labour) [21304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the health and safety conditions of the planned immigration removal centre in Medomsley, County Durham.

Reply from Chris Philp: Protecting the safety, health and welfare of individuals in immigration detention is our top priority. The new IRC will be operated in line with Detention Centre Rules 2001, published operating standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders; a framework which ensures the safety and security of those detained in our care. Safety has been in-built to the design in line with The Building Regulations 2010, including fire safety in line with current regulations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-23/21304>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Repatriation: India

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [18552] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and which (a) Sikh community groups, (b) charities and (c) Gurdwaras her Department has approached on its voluntary return programme, including distributing leaflets and holding surgeries.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [18553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department decides whether and which organisations to approach to seek assistance with the voluntary return programme.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [18554] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish a breakdown of the funding that has been granted to (a) Sikh community organisations, (b) charities and (c) Gurdwaras in exchange for support with the voluntary return programme for each of the last five years.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [18555] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Indian nationals have come forward via the voluntary return scheme in connection to voluntary return surgeries at (a) Gurdwaras, (b) Sikh community organisations and (c) charities.

Reply from Chris Philp:

- We do not hold the information you have requested. We do not hold information on every contact or engagement with a faith group, charity or community group. [18552]
- Immigration Enforcement work with faith and community groups at both a local and national level, with a focus on delivering a support mechanism for people who wish to engage with the Home Office to regularise their stay or to return home with some financial support. All engagement is purely of a voluntary nature. [18553]
- Immigration Enforcement engage across all communities where there is a demand, ensuring actions are proportionate, respectful and with the direct approval and support of the organisation. [18553]
- The total amount of Home Office payments to Indian or Sikh organisations that assisted with voluntary returns messaging for the last five financial years is as follows:
 - 2016/17: £45,000
 - 2017/18: £50,714.48
 - 2018/19: £42,993.83
 - 2019/20: £22,211.27
 - 2020/21: £0
- The amounts paid in a financial year may also include accruals for payments that were due at the previous financial year. [18554]

The 2016/17-2018/19 figures provided are held on an archived Home Office management information system and therefore this information has been taken from offline records and should be treated as provisional.

- We do not hold the information you have requested. There are multiple avenues for individuals to access assistance to return home, this includes calling the voluntary returns service, completing an online form and speaking to immigration officials. It is, therefore, not possible for us to confirm how many people have come forward to the voluntary return service via an immigration surgery. [18555]

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18552>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18553>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18554>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18555>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

The answer given by the Minister in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords

Lord Rosser (Labour): Some 30,000 people in receipt of benefits have yet to apply for settled status. Applications have not been made for more than 2,000 children in care or care leavers. The Government have no clear idea of the total number of EU citizens still to apply ...

To keep the rights they had, those still to apply have to hope that the Government of Windrush and the hostile environment deem that they have reasonable grounds for a late application being made.

First, we have called for an extension of the European Union settlement scheme for three months to the end of September. Why will the Government not agree to it? Secondly, will they commit to providing updates to Parliament, at least every month, of the number of late applications received and the number of such applications accepted, the number rejected and the number still outstanding of decision?

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

I thank the noble Lord for his questions. On a September extension, the scheme has been open now for over two years, which is a reasonable time, in our estimation. The noble Lord talked about children in particular, and I agree that they may be a particularly vulnerable cohort. Of course, with children or children in care, whatever their circumstances, if there are reasonable excuses beyond midnight of last night, they will be able to apply and that scheme will be open indefinitely so as not to disadvantage them. On benefits, we are working very hard with the DWP to ensure that all those who are entitled to benefits will keep them.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, why set an arbitrary deadline for people to claim rights they are already entitled to?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it was not arbitrary; these things have to come to an end at some point. As I say, the deadline has come over two years since the scheme opened, which was incredibly generous. That is evidenced by the fact that now over 5.2 million people have had their applications processed for either settled or pre-settled status.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, the figures given in the Answer appear very satisfactory. However, can my noble friend first of all confirm that “concluded” means accepted, and if not, can she please say how many people have been accepted? Can she also give the House an assurance that those who are accepted will be able to have a physical document that proves that they are indeed entitled to permanent residence in this country?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can confirm to my noble friend that not all applications concluded are accepted. There will be some specific cohorts of people who will not have their applications accepted; for example, for various reasons to do with offending or for reasons of national concern. However, as regards the physical document, the EU settlement scheme was designed precisely to avoid a Windrush-type event, where immigration status was automatically conferred on people by an Act of Parliament but with no record made of it. Successful applicants under the EU settlement scheme receive a digital immigration status that provides that secure evidence of their status.

Lord Dubs (Labour): My Lords, will the Minister confirm that the original estimates made

by the Home Office represent about half the number of people eligible under the scheme? Will she further confirm that when the figures were last produced, at least 300 children had not been identified? Given that, it is likely that there will be many more than 300. Therefore, while I welcome the Minister's commitment that the scheme for children will be open indefinitely, is there not a concern that there will be a large number of children whom the Home Office have not identified and who may still not be aware of their position in the years to come?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally acknowledge the noble Lord's point about children who in years to come might not have that status and therefore will need to apply for it. That is why the scheme, which accepts reasonable excuses for why somebody has not applied, will remain open indefinitely. I hope the noble Lord will be happy that 67% of children in care have applied. That is a great figure but support will be ongoing to encourage those children to apply. The noble Lord's point about the Home Office underestimating the number of people who might apply for settled status is absolutely right. So did the 3million, hence its name. We now have 5.6 million applications, which is a very encouraging figure.

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench): To follow on from the question from the noble Lord, Lord Cormack, a main concern of EU citizens resident here is for those without smartphones or internet access to have printable proof of their status. Will the Government consider the use of a secure, QR code-based system to achieve this? It is a technology the Government approve of and many of us are now familiar with it. If it has been done for vaccination status, why not for settled status?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... To update him, Home Office officials recently met the 3million to discuss those proposals in more detail. The use of QR codes is something that we will consider. There will of course be a number of issues to work through to assess the feasibility of the solution, including that end users' data is absolutely secure.

Baroness Donaghy (Labour): My Lords, the Minister will agree that online support, telephone helplines and grant-funded organisations have done a tremendous job so far. What help will be available to those who have missed the deadline? How do we ensure, as the Minister hopes, that we do not have another Windrush scandal? Many do not trust the state or politicians, and many will not believe that the new rules apply to them because they have been here for decades. How will the Minister's statement that the scheme will be open indefinitely be manifested?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think what the noble Baroness asks is: beyond the deadline, what support will be available? The Settlement Resolution Centre will certainly be open after the deadline, and the grant-funded organisations will be funded into June. On her point about our intention up to September, we will scope out what the needs will be beyond September, because we do not want a hard stop preventing anyone who can apply to the scheme from doing so.

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench): My Lords, Portuguese is a difficult language to get one's head around at the best of times, and vice versa with English, which leads to my question. Many in the East Timorese community resident in the UK apparently have no idea of the necessity to register post Brexit. Is the Minister concerned about that? If so, what has been or can be done, and do the Government suspect that other communities with English-language issues are similarly placed?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The East Timor issue has been drawn to my attention, and we will continue to encourage those who are eligible to apply as soon as possible. The noble Viscount will, I hope, know that we have granted £22 million-worth of funding until September of this year, and, as I just said to the noble Baroness, we will be scoping whether that support needs to continue. We have an organisation in Oxfordshire working specifically with the East Timor community.

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated): My Lords, I understand that, under the EU settlement scheme, there are no exemptions for seasonal workers in the fish processing industry, although there are exemptions in the edible horticulture sector. In view of that, will the Minister meet me to discuss how the issue will impact on the fishing sector in Northern Ireland and how this situation can be remedied?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am very happy to meet the noble Baroness to discuss both the horticultural and fishing industries. She will know that a pilot is currently under way for seasonal agricultural workers, but I am very happy to listen to her thoughts on it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-01/debates/1B4176F6-394B-4E11-B79C-56D24189B850/EUSettlementScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL1071] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Court of Appeal judgment in *PRCBC & O v Secretary of State for the Home Department* on 18 February, whether they will complete the assessment provided for in section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009; and if so, (1) when the assessment will be completed, and (2) whether it will be published.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has acknowledged the Court of Appeal's judgment and has committed to reviewing the child citizenship registration fee in line with its duties under Section 55.

This review is on-going and the results will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-14/hl1071>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2021/193.html>

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL1353] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the High Court judgment in *ST & VW v Secretary of State for the Home Department* on 29 April, what steps they are taking regarding the application of section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009; and in particular how the judgment will affect the application of the No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the judgment in the case of *ST & VW v Secretary of State* the Secretary of State for the Home Department was successful in five out of the six challenges brought against the No Recourse to Public Funds policy.

We are currently reflecting on the judgment relating to Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 and the nature of any amendments required to the Immigration Rules and guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-23/hl1353>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/1085.html>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL1206] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support those who have been unable to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme because of the pandemic.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL1207] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps

they are taking to support (1) individuals, and (2) communities, who face barriers to applying to the EU Settlement Scheme online.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. £22 million of funding has been awarded to a network of 72 charities and local authorities across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 310,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already.

The Home Office has a dedicated team of more than 1,500 people working on the EUSS, with support available to applicants seven days a week by telephone and by email.

To maximise the intake of applications by 30 June deadline, changes have been made to the postal route for paper applications. The new process enables completed paper applications to be emailed directly to the team handling applications.

We appreciate the pandemic has had an impact on many people's ability to travel. Hence on 10 June, the Home Office published revised guidance on permitted absences because of COVID-19 under the EU Settlement Scheme. The guidance provides further clarity and flexibility for EU citizens and their family members to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and to otherwise maintain their continuous residence.

The Home Office has delivered a comprehensive range of communications activity, at a cost of £8m, to increase awareness of the EUSS, engaging extensively with a wide range of stakeholder organisations and other government departments, to provide the materials they need to communicate about the Settlement Scheme.

This includes toolkits, assets and information translated into 26 EEA languages, and Welsh, for local authorities, community groups, employers and the Grant Funded Network, who work closely with vulnerable, hard to reach audiences to provide application support.

Information about how applicants can seek help and support with their application through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre, or via Assisted Digital for those who need digital support, is provided on GOV.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/hl1206>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/hl1207>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL1239] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU citizens are expected to achieve settled status in each calendar year from 2021 to 2026.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A person granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for this. Applicants who have completed five years' continuous residence, or where other criteria for eligibility for settled status without the length of continuous residence are met, are eligible for settled status.

The Home Office cannot assess a person's eligibility for settled status until they make an application to the scheme, and therefore cannot state how many of those

granted pre-settled status or who are yet to apply to the scheme will be eligible for settled status in the period sought.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/hl1239>

Information about the EU Citizenship scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Refugees: Resettlement

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL1145] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the UK Resettlement Scheme since March; how many people have been resettled to the UK since March; from which countries those people originated; and, further to their announcement on 17 June 2019, what progress they have made in introducing the mechanism for emergency resettlement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK Resettlement Scheme commenced in February 2021, immediately following the successful completion of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme through which 20,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria were given sanctuary in the UK. The UK Resettlement Scheme continues to successfully resettle refugees, as local authority and community sponsor capacity allows, and as we recover from the pandemic.

Statistics under the scheme are published through official statistics at quarterly intervals. The next set of statistics will be published in July and will include the number of people resettled since March. These are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The Emergency Resettlement Mechanism is currently in development. It will ensure the resettlement scheme allows refugees at exceptional and immediate risk to be resettled more quickly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/hl1145>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Nicolson (SNP) [262] **UK citizenship charges** – That this House regrets the extortionate charges for people wanting to gain citizenship to the UK; highlights that the fees are much higher than European neighbours and international allies; further highlights the exceptional social and economic benefit that immigrants contribute to the UK; and, finally, urges the Government to lower that cost to encourage immigration in a post-Brexit world.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58711>

Press Releases

EU Settlement Scheme deadline day: Statement by the Minister for Europe Jenny Gilruth

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-deadline-day-30-june-2021/>

UK secures the rights of millions of EU citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-secures-the-rights-of-millions-of-eu-citizens>

New Publications

Updated Guidance: New immigration system: what you need to know

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know>

Your immigration status: an introduction for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/view-and-prove-your-immigration-status-evisa/your-immigration-status-an-introduction-for-eu-eea-and-swiss-citizens-accessible-version>

EU Settlement Scheme: updated community groups toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-community-groups-toolkit>

EU Settlement Scheme: updated employer toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

EU Settlement Scheme: updated local authorities toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-local-authorities-toolkit>

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Monique Hawkins, the 3million, regarding the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) Certificate of Application and rights after 30 June 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0528/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_Monique_Hawkins.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme: letter from Kevin Foster MP to the Director for Children's Services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-letter-from-kevin-foster-mp-to-directors-for-childrens-services/eu-settlement-scheme-letter-from-kevin-foster-mp-to-the-director-for-childrens-services-accessible-version>

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children: age assessment toolkit

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-06/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-age-assessment-toolkit.pdf>

News

UK Government's new immigration system will work well for Scotland – Kevin Foster MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/uk-governments-new-immigration-system-will-work-well-for-scotland-kevin-foster-mp-3294124>

UK is not a 'closed shop' to migrants, says Priti Patel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/06/30/uk-not-closed-shop-migrants-says-priti-patel/>

Combat staff shortages by relaxing Brexit immigration rules, says CBI

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jun/28/combat-staff-shortages-by-relaxing-brexit-immigration-rules-says-cbi>

Priti Patel's 'hostile environment' for EU citizens will fuel racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/priti-patel-home-office-eu-citizens-racism-b1875400.html>

EU settlement deadline: Who's registered and who's at risk?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57656608>

EU citizens must get on with applying for settled status, says Boris Johnson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/06/30/eu-citizens-must-get-applying-settled-status-says-boris-johnson/>

EU citizens 'left vulnerable by ill-prepared Westminster', SNP MP claims
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19413930.eu-citizens-left-vulnerable-ill-prepared-westminster-snp-mp-claims/>

More than 6 million EU citizens apply to settle UK before the end of EU Settlement Scheme
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-settlement-scheme-applications-brexit-b1876988.html>

Brexit has proved there are far more EU migrants than officialdom dared admit
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/06/28/brexit-has-proved-far-eu-migrants-officialdom-dared-admit/>

Almost twice as many EU citizens as thought have been living in UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/02/almost-twice-many-eu-citizens-thought-have-living-uk/>

Are there really 6m EU citizens living in the UK?
<https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2021/07/02/are-there-really-6m-eu-citizens-living-in-the-uk/>

Over 50,000 EU citizens apply for settled status in a day to beat deadline
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/01/eu-citizens-scramble-beat-uk-settled-status-deadline>

Mad scramble to stay in UK as 50,000 EU citizens apply on final day
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/01/eu-settled-status-deadline-sees-50000-apply-final-day/>

Uncertain future for EU citizens with non-settled status in UK
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uncertain-future-for-eu-citizens-with-non-settled-status-in-uk-jvstnjbb2>

Thousands of EU citizens may lose legal status to live in UK
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/thousands-of-eu-citizens-may-lose-legal-status-to-live-in-uk-britain-dutch-brexit-caribbean-france-b1875269.html>

'It will be a whole new world': Fears EU settlement deadline will place migrant domestic abuse victims at grave risk
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-settlement-scheme-migrant-domestic-abuse-b1874016.html>

Employers warned not to discriminate amid rush for EU settled status
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jun/30/employers-warned-not-to-discriminate-amid-rush-for-eu-settled-status>

Unions concerned that many EU citizens will become criminalised and vulnerable to Hostile Environment policies
<https://www.ictuni.org/news/2021/07/01/unions-concerned-that-many-eu-citizens-will-become/>

Brexit Britain is relaxed about EU immigration
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brexit-britain-is-relaxed-about-eu-immigration-z68rnfnfs>

Free Church of Scotland opens its arms to Hongkongers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/free-church-of-scotland-opens-its-arms-to-hongkongers-w2fvsbctm>

Major overhaul of Border Force after failure to stem flow of Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/06/28/major-overhaul-border-force-failure-stem-flow-channel-migrants/>

Priti Patel plans for migrants to be held in offshore hub

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-plans-migrants-held-offshore-africa-hub-processing-denmark-8ktj9q36p>

Home Office proposals due on sending asylum seekers abroad

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/28/home-office-proposals-due-on-sending-asylum-seekers-abroad>

Is the government actually convinced about its own offshore immigration plans?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/offshore-asylum-rwanda-denmark-home-office-priti-patel-uk-b1874004.html>

UN condemns Priti Patel's offshore asylum plan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/un-condemns-priti-patels-offshore-asylum-plan-vsbbp9tns>

Scottish Refugee Council response to the Home Office's inhumane offshoring proposals

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-reports-of-home-office-offshoring-proposals/>

Offshore processing of asylum seekers?

<https://www.paih.org/patel-plans-to-take-refugees-offshore/>

Migrants who enter Britain by dinghy to be deported under new law

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-who-enter-britain-by-dinghy-to-be-deported-under-new-law-q9dfjzd2j>

As the government plans to make the journey for migrants harder, the fight for their safety continues

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/as-the-government-plans-to-make-the-journey-for-migrants-harder-the-fight-for-their-safety-continues-3lw7qgsI9>

Police close M25 and search lorries after panicked migrants dial 999 to say 'We can't breathe'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/01/police-close-m25-search-lorries-panicked-migrants-dial-999-say/>

EU asylum applications drop due to COVID, not lower demand

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/eu-asylum-applications-drop-due-to-covid-not-lower-demand-europe-brussels-covid-germany-syria-b1874662.html>

Asylum queue nine times longer than 10 years ago

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57681920>

Delays push asylum costs up to £220m

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/delays-push-asylum-costs-up-to-220m-wtb28wp52>

Unaccompanied child refugees wrongly refused family reunification by Home Office, High Court rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-family-reunion-refugee-crisis-b1877025.html>

Modern slavery victims wrongly turned away by Home Office last year, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/modern-slavery-victims-wrongly-turned-away-by-home-office-last-year-figures-show-b1877126.html>

Let's just dress asylum seekers in khaki shorts and pith helmets

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lets-just-dress-asylum-seekers-in-khaki-shorts-and-pith-helmets-lbq7pvdqj>

Asylum seekers face deteriorating mental health a year on from Park Inn attack

<https://tfn.scot/news/asylum-seekers-face-deteriorating-mental-health-a-year-on-from-park-inn-attack>

Afghanistan to Alton: A refugee's story of seeking asylum in the UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/long-reads/afghanistan-sikh-refugee-asylum-uk-b1857031.html>

HMRC loses child tax credits case as refugee family make legal history

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/19373550.hmrc-loses-child-tax-credits-case-refugee-family-make-legal-history/>

Ten councils join scheme that could help Home Office deport rough sleepers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/01/ten-councils-join-scheme-that-could-help-home-office-deport-rough-sleepers>

Four out of five rejected trafficking claims were overturned in UK last year

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/02/four-out-of-five-rejected-trafficking-claims-overturned-uk-last-year>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Black History and Cultural Diversity in the Curriculum

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-28/debates/21062855000001/BlackHistoryAndCulturalDiversityInTheCurriculum>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Elections: Proof of Identity

Cat Smith (Labour) [23232] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Government's proposals on voter ID, what plans are in place for people that wear face coverings for religious or cultural reasons when presenting photo ID.

Reply from Chloe Smith: Everyone who is eligible to vote will have the opportunity

to do so.

Those whose appearance has significantly changed in comparison to their existing identification documents can apply for a free, local Voter Card that matches their current appearance.

Polling station staff will be given appropriate training and there will be a requirement for privacy screens to allow electors who wish to have their form of identification viewed in private able to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/23232>

Unemployment: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [23325] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent steps she has taken with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the unemployment gap for Black, Asian and ethnic minority people in (a) Newport West, (b) Wales and (c) the UK.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government is committed to supporting people from all backgrounds, including those from ethnic minorities, to move into work. It provides a national offer of support ensuring that no matter where they live, all customers receive the help they need, when they need it.

Our Job Centre Plus network offers tailored interventions which allow Work Coaches to adapt their approach to suit each customer's needs. Our Plan for Jobs Programme protects, supports and creates jobs, targeting young people, the long term unemployed, and those in need of new training and skills. It includes the Kickstart Scheme, an expanded youth offer, and the expansion of the Work and Health Programme, all offering new support to jobseekers, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

We also have a national programme of mentoring circles, involving employers offering specialised support to unemployed, ethnic minority jobseekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/23325>

The following four questions all received the same answer

STEM Subjects: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [20531] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the educational attainment of Black pupils compared to pupils of other ethnic origins in STEM subjects in (a) Key Stage 1, (b) Key Stage 2, (c) Key Stage 3 and (d) Key stage 4.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [20532] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the educational attainment of Black pupils compared to pupils of other ethnic origins in STEM subjects at A-level.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [20533] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the covid-19 lockdowns on the educational attainment of Black pupils in STEM subjects.

Education: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [20534] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to bridge the educational attainment gap between Black pupils and pupils of other ethnic origins in (a) STEM and (b) other subjects.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department publishes data on the results of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assessments, including in Mathematics and science, broken down by ethnicity, in the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 statistics publications, available to view here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-1>

and here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-key-stage-2#national-curriculum-assessments-at-key-stage-2>

Key Stage 3 assessments are no longer carried out. With regard to Key Stage 4, the Department does not publish statistics at this level which show the attainment in science, technology, engineering or Mathematics (STEM) subjects versus all others by ethnicity.

Data is routinely published on the achievement of STEM A level subjects broken down by ethnicity and other student characteristics in the A level and other 16 to 18 results statistical release, available to view here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-attainment-at-19-years#a-levels-and-other-16-to-18-results>

The Department commissioned research by Renaissance Learning and the Education Policy Institute to understand pupils' progress over the course of the 2020/21 academic year. The research uses assessments from Renaissance Learning which some schools use as part of their usual formative assessment schedule. The research estimates education lost by predicting what pupils would have scored in a normal year using their historic results and compare that against their actual scores.

The Department has looked at the results by Black pupils and pupils belonging to other ethnic groups, but there is not a consistent picture of which ethnic groups have been worse affected across phases, subjects, and time periods in the study. Small sample sizes make it difficult to draw statistically significant conclusions about differences in impact between ethnic groups based on this study.

The Department has invested over £3 billion since June 2020 to support education recovery for children aged 2 to 19 in schools, colleges, and early years. This will have a material impact in addressing lost education and closing gaps that have emerged. As part of this, we have announced significant investment in reforms which the evidence shows have the biggest impact on pupils' progress: small group tuition and high quality teaching. For example, effective tutoring has been shown to boost catch up education by much as 3 to 5 months at a time.

The Department has committed to an ambitious, long-term education recovery plan and the next stage will include a review of time spent in school and college and the impact this could have on helping children and young people to catch up. The findings of the review will be set out later in the year to inform the Spending Review. Ensuring that anyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to pursue a career in a STEM occupation is a key priority for this Government. The Department has made substantial spending commitments on Mathematics, digital, and technical education to encourage more students into STEM, from primary school to higher education. The demand for STEM skills is growing and improving take up of STEM subjects is vital for the UK's future economic needs and to drive up productivity.

The Department is proud to have rolled out programmes such as the Advanced Maths Support Programme, Stimulating Physics Network, Enthuse bursaries, Teaching for Mastery and Isaac Physics. Together, these programmes will increase STEM support and uptake across all key stages, enhancing the next generation's mathematical and scientific skills on which the STEM sector is underpinned.

Furthermore, programmes such as STEM Ambassadors, where volunteers who are employed in STEM industries engage directly with young people, help broaden pupils' understanding of careers in science and engineering and how they can apply their individual skills and interests to different opportunities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20531>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20532>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20533>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-22/20534>

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [22066] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will implement a plan to improve maternal outcomes for Black women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The Chief Midwifery Officer, Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, is leading work to understand why mortality rates are higher, consider evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and take action to improve equity in outcomes for mothers and their babies. NHS England and NHS Improvement are also working to develop an equity strategy that will focus on reducing disparities for women and their babies from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups and those living in the most deprived areas.

The NHS Long Term Plan commits to ensuring that by 2024, 75% of BAME groups and a similar proportion of women who live in the most deprived areas, will receive continuity of care from their midwife throughout pregnancy, labour and the postnatal period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22066>

The Long Term Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/online-version/>

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [22067] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he is going to implement the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Human Rights Eleventh Report of Session 2019–21, Black people, racism and human rights, relating to Black Maternal Health.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The Joint Committee on Human Rights report recommends that the Government introduces a target to end the disparity in maternal mortality between black and white women.

Work is being undertaken by the Chief Midwifery Officer for England to understand why mortality rates are higher, consider evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and take action to improve equity in outcomes and experience of care for mothers and their babies. Research is also being carried by the Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care at the University of Oxford to better understand the reasons for any disparity, assess local variation and also identify areas with less disparity and hence best practice. The Department does not plan to introduce a target to reduce inequalities in maternity outcomes in England whilst this work takes place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/22067>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3376/documents/32359/default/>

New Publications

Social mobility and ethnicity

<https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Social-mobility-and-ethnicity.pdf>

Lit in Colour: Diversity in Literature in English Schools

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Lit%20in%20Colour/Lit-in-Colour-research-report.pdf>

News

Black and Asian people with learning disabilities are more likely to die young - this grim fact should compel Sajid Javid to act

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/learning-disabilities-black-asian-health-sajid-javid-b1873911.html>

Children of immigrants ‘held back by employer discrimination’ in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/jun/29/children-of-immigrants-held-back-by-employer-discrimination-in-uk>

Immigrant children twice as likely to graduate than white peers – but they still struggle for a job

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/29/immigrant-children-twice-likely-graduate-white-peers-still/>

Ethnic minority workers ‘three times more likely to have had hours reduced’ since pandemic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ethnic-minority-workers-covid-pandemic-b1876732.html>

Mandatory ethnic pay gap reporting would be a terrible idea

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/28/mandatory-ethnic-pay-gap-reporting-would-terrible-idea/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Racial Discrimination

John Howell (Conservative) [21855] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will make an assessment of the implications for the Government's policies on racial equality of the debate on 24 June, in the third Part-Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 2021 on Combating Afrophobia in Europe.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The Government remains fully committed to building a fairer Britain and taking action to address disparities wherever they exist. That is why the Prime Minister established the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in July 2020.

The Commission submitted its findings to the Prime Minister on 31 March, along with 24 recommendations for key actions for the Government. We will publish our response to the report later this summer and it would be inappropriate to comment on the implications of the debate of 24 June in advance of that.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-24/21855>

A transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2021-06-24/pm/en#theme-973>

The report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Travellers: Discrimination

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL1367] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which online advertisements promote discrimination against Traveller communities; what plans they have to ensure that digital media platforms do not carry adverts that include such discrimination; and what steps they intend to take against individuals or organisations that place adverts that discriminate against Traveller communities.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The regulation of online advertising in the UK is led by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The ASA is responsible for the day-to-day enforcement of the UK Code for Non-broadcast Advertising and Direct & Promotional Marketing (the CAP Code).

Within the CAP code, section 4.1, covers rules around discrimination, stating that "particular care must be taken to avoid offence on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age." Marketers should be particularly aware of their depictions of these characteristics, and ensure that their ads do not contain anything which may be likely to cause serious or widespread offence on any grounds." More information can be found here:

<https://www.asa.org.uk/advice-online/offence-use-of-stereotypes.html>

In investigating a possible breach of advertising rules, the ASA will use the CAP code to determine the course of action. If the advertisement is deemed to be offensive or discriminatory, the advertiser will be asked to take down the ad.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-23/hl1367>

Press Release

UN Human Rights Chief urges immediate, transformative action to uproot systemic racism

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27218&LangID=E>

New Publications

Report of the inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland by the Cross-Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia: Scotland's Islamophobia

<https://anassarwar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Islamophobia-public-inquiry-report-1.pdf>

Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/47/53>

News

Anas Sarwar: 'Islamophobia in Scotland should shame us all'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57641242>

Increasing Islamophobia should shame us all, says Labour leader Anas Sarwar

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/increasing-islamophobia-should-shame-us-all-says-labour-leader-anas-sarwar-5zpbslxx0>

Church reacts to Islamophobia in Scotland report

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/Church-reacts-to-Islamophobia-in-Scotland-report>

Two men admit criminal offence over racist Snapchat video targeting Priti Patel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/priti-patel-racist-football-boss-snapchat-b1874701.html>

British Jews' fear and defiance amid record monthly anti-Semitism reports

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57339266>

The inside story of the terrifying rise of the far right

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19418384.neil-mackays-big-read-inside-story-terrifying-rise-far-right/>

Neo-Nazi teen who threatened to attack migrants in Dover admits terror offences

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/terror-migrants-neo-nazi-dover-b1873999.html>

'Status quo is untenable': UN calls for end to police brutality against Black people

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/united-nation-police-brutality-blm-b1873841.html>

Government commission ignored evidence of NHS racism, says British Medical Association

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sewell-report-nhs-racism-bma-b1874979.html>

Journalists of colour need greater protection from horrendous online abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/journalism-abuse-online-trolls-racism-b1873852.html>

Oxfam staff rage at 'whiteness survey'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxfam-staff-rage-at-whiteness-survey-fw7h6dl3w>

Retired judge Peter Herbert settles race claim against judiciary

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/jul/02/retired-judge-peter-herbert-settles-race-claim-judiciary-black>

Payout for former judge Peter Herbert in race discrimination claim

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/payout-for-former-judge-peter-herbert-in-race-discrimination-claim-5zltptqsp>

Ex-Hampshire police officer who used racist language found guilty of gross misconduct

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/29/ex-hampshire-police-officer-who-used-racist-language-found-guilty-of-gross-misconduct>

Twitter suspending football supporters who tweet monkey emoji

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/twitter-football-emoji-suspend-monkey-b1877144.html>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Marriage and Religious Weddings

Baroness Cox (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards their commitment in the *Integrated Communities Strategy* Green Paper, published on 14 March 2018, to “explore the legal and practical challenges of limited reform relating to the law on marriage and religious weddings”.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice:

My Lords, the law regulating legal marriage ceremonies developed over 150 years without systematic reform, so any changes present both legal and practical challenges. That is why the Law Commission is reviewing the law and will report later this year. A separate Nuffield Foundation study, also due to report this year, will investigate why marriage ceremonies occur outside the legal framework in England and Wales. The Government will consider both reports carefully.

Baroness Cox: My Lords, I remain deeply concerned, because there has been no evidence of any meaningful progress since I first raised these issues over 10 years ago. As the Muslim Women's Advisory Council told me recently, although the plight of many Muslim women in this country is well-known, “their cry for help is ignored.”

The Government have continually failed “to enshrine the rights of Muslim women who do not yet have the protection of legal marriage.”

Will the Minister at last give an assurance that legislation will be introduced, as a matter of great urgency, to ensure that religious marriages are also legally registered?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, I am aware of the noble Baroness's work in this area and the Private Members' Bills she has brought forward in the past. The offence set out in her Private Member's Bill is one of the potential options on which we are working, but any change in practice must be based on the facts on the ground. We are doing work with the Nuffield Foundation, the Law Commission is looking at this area and we have met with Aina Khan from Register Our Marriage. While I cannot give an assurance on legislation, I can give an assurance that this has a high priority and we are looking at it with real care.

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester: My Lords, during the passage of the Domestic Abuse Bill, now an Act, your Lordships discussed how best to protect migrant victims of abuse. Will the Minister assure me that any reforms, such as those being discussed here today, will safeguard migrant women and children, who are often particularly vulnerable?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, the right reverend Prelate is right that the position of migrant women and their children, in particular, is of real concern. As we saw in the domestic abuse debates, those groups can be subject to particular intimidation and abuse. We will, therefore, consider their position in any legislation.

Viscount Bridgeman (Conservative): My Lords, a Channel 4 survey found that six in 10 Muslim women, who had had traditional Islamic weddings in Britain, are not legally married—a point made by the noble Baroness, Lady Cox. Of these, over a quarter—28%—are not aware that they do not have the same rights they would with a legally recognised marriage. Does the Minister not agree that this is an issue of equal rights for women? May I press him on how the Government will safeguard the rights of Muslim women and ensure that the rule of law is upheld?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, my noble friend is right: if you are not legally married, under the law of England and Wales, you have a significantly disadvantageous position on divorce and on death. The position is simple: there is only one law in this country, the law of England and Wales. That proposition can be traced back to Jeremiah's letter to the Babylonian exiles. There

is no separate system of law in this country.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, I declare an interest as the chairman of the National Commission on Forced Marriage. I ask the Minister to bear in mind that any relaxing of the requirements of marriage might have the unintended consequence of not identifying a potential forced marriage.

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, I respectfully agree with the noble and learned Baroness that, in seeking to update marriage law, we must ensure that we do not weaken forced marriage safeguards. Indeed, we criminalised that in 2014. I know that the Law Commission is looking at these issues most carefully.

Can I just clarify my previous answer, before the Advocate-General for Scotland has a go at me? When I said “this country”, I was referring to the law of England and Wales; the law of Scotland is a separate matter.

Lord Falconer of Thoroton (Labour): My Lords, the 2015 review by the noble Baroness, Lady Casey, said that, as of 2015, there were up to 100,000 sharia marriages in the UK, “many of which are not recognised under UK laws and leave women without full legal rights upon divorce.”

Her review warned that this was worrying in a group with lower levels of female employment and English language. Crucially, the noble Baroness said: “The potential for women ... to find themselves in what they believe to be a binding commitment, be economically and socially dependent on their spouse, and yet have no legal marriage status, is worryingly high.”

The Minister said that this issue is a very high priority. That report was six years ago. When did it become a high priority and what have the Government done in those six years?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, the noble and learned Lord knows that it is a high priority, because this is one of the issues that both the Law Commission and the Nuffield Foundation are looking at. We have also looked at the sharia review. As I have said, our position is that we want to make sure that people are properly protected, though I would suggest that it is as much a matter of education as it is of legislation.

Baroness Eaton (Conservative): My Lords, numerous independent reports, including those commissioned by the Government, have confirmed that some sharia councils embed discrimination against women, including against those women who use sharia council services on matters of marriage and divorce. Given that countless women are suffering as a result, may I press my noble friend the Minister for an assurance that we will see government legislation sooner rather than later?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, people may choose to abide by the interpretation and application of sharia principles if they wish to do so—that is a matter of religious freedom—provided that their actions do not conflict with the national law. But, importantly, all individuals retain the right to seek a remedy through the English courts in the event of a dispute. For these purposes, the law of England and Wales in relation to the inheritance of property will prevail. We are looking at legislation, and I will of course update the House and my noble friend as and when we reach a decision.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister agree with the words of a Christian hymn that “New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth”, and that religion and religious teachings should be interpreted in the context of today’s times and the recognition of full gender equality? Does he agree that the Government’s continuing reluctance to stand up for the rights of Muslim women and girls is not only a betrayal of government responsibility but an insult to the fair name of Islam?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, I think the theological point put to me will take an answer that is probably longer than the allotted time, but I am

happy to consider it further. However, I reject the proposition that we are not concerned about the rights of Muslim women and girls. The history of the work in this area, whether on forced marriage or indeed the matters we are discussing this afternoon, would indicate the opposite.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, I do not think anybody could dispute my noble friend's personal commitment, but this is taking a very long time. Can he tell the House what line the Government will take on the Private Member's Bill from the other place which suggests that the minimum age for marriage should be 18?

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, I think my noble friend will have seen my letter to various groups on that point. Marriage at 16 and 17 has the significant risk of people being forced into marriages and their life chances reducing. Therefore, my noble friend can take it from me that we will be looking very carefully at the Bill introduced by the Member for Bromsgrove, who now appears to be otherwise occupied.

Baroness Deech (Crossbench): My Lords, I am sure the Minister believes that there should be equality among religions in relation to divorce, and that the law should bring justice to women who are mistreated by religious husbands and religious courts. So will he ensure changes to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, so that the court can refuse to finalise a civil divorce until an Islamic religious divorce has been obtained, if unfair pressure is being used in the religious proceedings? This would bring Islamic divorce in line with the Jewish get.

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: My Lords, the premise behind the question of the noble Baroness is that the bars to effective relief are the same in Judaism and Islam, but that is not in fact the case. As I understand it, it is significantly easier for a woman to obtain a divorce in Islam than it is for a woman to facilitate or obtain a divorce in Orthodox Judaism. Therefore, the Act that the noble Baroness refers to—I believe it is Section 10A—would not have the same advantageous effect in Islamic marriages as it does in Orthodox Jewish marriages.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-28/debates/FC4BC1DD-43EF-44DE-AC2D-FA97E2B09A10/MarriageAndReligiousWeddings>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/>

Information about the Nuffield Foundation study referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/wedding-not-marriage-exploring-non-legally-binding-ceremonies>

Information about the Channel 4 survey referred to above can be read at

<https://www.channel4.com/press/news/new-channel-4-survey-reveals-truth-about-muslim-marriage>

The Casey Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

The Private Member's Bill referred to above can be read at

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

New Publications

Summary: The UK's new relationship with the EU

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-the-uks-new-relationship-with-the-eu/summary-the-uks-new-relationship-with-the-eu>

Legislative Scrutiny: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (Part 4): The criminalisation of unauthorised encampments

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6554/documents/70980/default/>

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2020>

Hateful Extremism and the Law: An academic review

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999015/Hateful_extremism_and_the_law_academic_review.pdf

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

NHS Inform (Scotland)

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Registering for a coronavirus vaccination

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccineregistration>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

NHS (England and Wales)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Drop-in vaccine clinics in every mainland health board

<https://www.gov.scot/news/drop-in-vaccine-clinics-in-every-mainland-health-board/>

Test and Protect to prioritise high risk cases

<https://www.gov.scot/news/test-and-protect-to-prioritise-high-risk-cases/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech Friday 2 July 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-friday-2-july-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 29 June 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-29-june-2021/>

UK Government Press Releases

COVID-19 vaccines have prevented 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-have-prevented-7-2-million-infections-and-27-000-deaths>

Most vulnerable could be offered booster COVID-19 vaccines from September

<https://www.gov.scot/news/drop-in-vaccine-clinics-in-every-mainland-health-board/>

UK Government marks national Thank You Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-marks-national-thank-you-day>

Celebrities get back to the 'Rhythm of Life' in new film supporting COVID-19 vaccination programme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/celebrities-get-back-to-the-rhythm-of-life-in-new-film-supporting-covid-19-vaccination-programme>

UK Government Publication

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

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New Publication

The Changing Shape of Cultural Activism: Legislating Statues in the Context of the Black Lives Matter Movement

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/projects/CoDE%20Briefings/Runnymede%20CoDE%20Cultural%20Activism%2C%20Statues%20v1.pdf>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Immigration Costs for Armed Forces Personnel (closing date 7 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

Possible changes to the immigration and asylum rules in relation to tribunal reform [in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland] (closing date 14 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-immigration-and-asylum-rules-in-relation-to-tribunal-reform>

Scottish Parliament: what matters to you? (closing date 30 July 2021)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/10027>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

**** closes this week!**

Fife Equality Community Grants

Closing date 9 July 2021

Fife Centre for Equalities small grant programme (between £100 and £300) to help community-led groups to build their capacity to engage with wider diverse communities and to improve public's awareness about their activity. For information see <https://bit.ly/FifeEqGrants>

Adapt and Thrive

Closing date 19 July 2021

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

Hate Crime Security Fund for Places of Worship

Closing date 21 July 2021

This fund aims to reduce the vulnerability to hate crime that some places of worship across Scotland face. The Scottish Government has made £500,000 available for the provision of capital security measures and improvements. These measures are intended to reduce the risk of hate crimes to places of worship in Scotland and provide reassurance for faith communities who worship at them. ...

Applications are welcomed from individual places of worship of all faiths who can demonstrate their vulnerability to hate crime, whether or not a crime has been committed or reported to the police. ...

Up to 100% grants are available for the installation of up to three security measures and improvements,

You can apply for a maximum of £20,000 to cover all or part of your proposed security measures and improvements. ...

<https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/open-applications/hate-crime-security-fund>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/4ujukfuf>

Henry Duncan Grants for mental health and wellbeing

Closing date 21 July 2021

The health, economic and social impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to increase people's need for mental health support. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have been among those most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This is likely to affect people's mental health, for example through fear and anxiety, experience of illness or loss of loved ones. Research has shown that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are disadvantaged when accessing mental health and well-being services, including the quality of care they receive. This is due to racism, structural and institutional inequalities, fear, stigma and discrimination. For these reasons, Henry Duncan Grants 2021 includes a strand focused on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. For information see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/henry-duncan-grants/>

Vaccine Information Fund

Running until August 2021

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

15 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/fsbvp2ac> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Advantage Is Invisible – Understanding Unintentional Discrimination

29 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the nature and patterns of discrimination, focussing on unintentional discrimination, and exploring its prevalence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/u6tb4ext> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

4 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals, and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

18 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Intention Versus Impact – Exploring Challenges Around Group Labels And Unintended Offence

25 August 2021 (online, 13.30–15.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop exploring the terminology used to describe groups, particularly in relation to protected characteristics such as race, disability, religion and belief. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z7wcfh46> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Debiasing Our Systems, Debiasing Ourselves – An Introduction To Tackling Unconscious Bias

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamye4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/27mj9h3b> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

No Recourse to Public Funds

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021), and the theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet. Event submissions are now open and can be registered on the [Scottish Interfaith Week website](#). Sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#) to receive updates.

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>*

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>*



*The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>*

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